REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-5 were rejected, and remain at issue in the above-identified application.

I. 35 U.S.C. ¶ 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yde-Anderson (WO 97/03475) in view of Ibbotson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,287,274). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a solid electrolyte cell comprising a rolled electrode body and a multi-layered cell casing film covering the rolled electrode body. The rolled electrode body has a positive electrode and a negative electrode. The positive electrode has a strip positive electrode collector having a first side and a second side opposite the first side. The first and second sides of the strip positive electrode collector are coated with a positive electrode active material layer. The negative electrode has a strip negative electrode collector having a first side and a second side opposite the first side. The first and second sides of the strip negative electrode collector are coated with a negative electrode active material layer. The positive electrode and negative electrode are layered via a solid electrolyte layer and rolled in a lengthwise direction. The positive and negative electrodes each have a collector first-side exposed portion at their one end in the lengthwise direction positioned at an outermost circumference of the rolled electrode body. At least the first side of the strip positive electrode collector and at least the first side of the strip negative electrode collector are exposed. The collector first-side exposed portion of the positive electrode covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more. The multi-layered cell casing film comprises a polyethylene terephthalate layer.

Yde-Anderson discloses that a first end 203 of a protruding part 206 of an anode electrode structure 200 is inserted into a slit 241 of a core element 240, and the core element 240 is rolled until the whole laminate is wound. (See page 14, lines 21-26 and Fig. 1). Thus, contrary to claim 1, the positive and negative electrodes in Yde-Anderson do not each have a collector first-side exposed portion at their one end in the lengthwise direction positioned at an outermost circumference of the rolled electrode body. Moreover, the exposed portion of the positive electrode in Yde-Anderson does not cover the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body, as required by claim 1. Rather, the anode (i.e., positively charged electrode) in Yde-Anderson is rolled in the inner portion of the wound electrochemical cell. (See page 14, lines 21-26 and Fig. 1). Because Yde-Anderson does not disclose or suggest at least two limitations required by claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a multi-layered cell casing as described in Ibbotson et al. in the electrochemical cell of Yde-Anderson to derive claim 1. Because claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, they include all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 are allowable over Yde-Anderson in view of Ibbotson et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segawa et al. (EP 936,690 A2) in view of Ibbotson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,287,274). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, claim 1 requires that the collector first-side exposed portion of the positive electrode covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more. Contrary to claim 1, in Segawa et al., the negative-electrode-collector exposed portion 12

is further in the outer circumference than the positive-electrode-collector exposed portion 9. (See Fig. 4). Because Yde-Anderson does not disclose or suggest that the collector first-side exposed portion of the positive electrode covers the outer circumference of the rolled electrode body by one turn or more, as required by claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a multi-layered cell casing as described in Ibbotson et al. in the electrochemical cell of Segawa et al. to derive claim 1. Because claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, they include all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 are allowable over Segawa et al. in view of Ibbotson et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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